

RUSHVILLE CITY UTILITIES
330 N. Main St., Suite 200
Rushville, IN 46173

Minutes of the Utility Board Meeting, September 16, 2020
The Utility Board met at the Water Plant Pole Barn

Brian Bess called the meeting to order.

Board Members Present:

Brian Bess
Dale Gardner
Phillip King
Butch Singleton

Phillip Starkey was absent

Others present:

Michael Pavey	Mayor
Les Day	Superintendent
Gina Jenkins	Office Manager
Geoff Wesling	City Attorney
Eric Schlechtweg	Utilities Foreman
Nathan Gosnell	Utilities Employee

Phil King motioned to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2020 meeting & August 26, 2020 special meeting. Butch Singleton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

During the Superintendent's report, Les Day told everyone that general cleaning and maintenance is on-going at the Water plant. Lines were located on the North side of the city. The tank at the Wastewater plant was drained and refilled with alum. The unaccounted loss of water for August was higher due to the hydrants being flushed.

There was a Comcate complaint from the Elks Lodge. In May 2020, they had requested that a smaller meter be installed to reduce their water bill. The meter has still not been changed out. Eric Schlechtweg said that the bolts on the current meter are too rusty and they will have to cut them to remove the meter and replace it with a smaller meter.

Gina Jenkins told the board that City Utilities will be doing shut offs on September 22nd but will not begin charging penalties until December. This will allow customers to catch up their bills without the extra cost.

Les Day said that he had hired Peerless Midwest to do a Well Site Study. The study showed that there are five potential sites. Peerless Midwest's price to drill these sites would be \$59,500.00. Les also, received a quote from Bastin Logan to drill the sites in the amount of \$36,500.00. Phil King

motioned to approve Bastin Logan doing the work. Butch Singleton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Les then told the board that there is 1,100 feet of water pipe that was not used at the Industrial Park. He said that he would like to use the pipe before it sits much longer. He has contacted Bowles Construction to dig and install the pipe. The board asked Les what the cost for Bowles to do this work would be. Les did not have that information but will get with Chad Bowles to get a quote. This was tabled until Les can get a price to the board members.

Les would also like to start replacing water mains. The cost for doing this was in the 2013 Capital Improvement Plan and was in the rate study for that year. There was \$200,000.00 a year allocated for new water mains. Les would like to start on 10th Street to Ft. Wayne Road because there have been several leaks in that area. Phil King said that Les should use the GPS map to point out the mains that need to be replaced.

Les said that he switched the Alum at the Wastewater plant to Alum 1997 to reduce costs. The Alum was switched out on August 25th but there are problems with Manganese and other levels tested at the lab being higher than the average should be. These levels are out of compliance with IDEM. Les contacted several people to find out if the new Alum is the cause. The Wastewater employees will be draining the tank and putting in the Alum that was previously used to hopefully get the levels back to normal range.

Gina Jenkins had given the board members a list of old accounts to be removed from the billing system at a previous board meeting. She asked the board if they had reviewed them to approve purging them from the system. Butch Singleton motioned to approve. Phil King seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Butch Singleton checked claims for the month. Butch motioned to approve the claims. Phil King seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Pavey told the board members that the City Council had passed the 2021 Water and Wastewater budgets.

There was a discussion regarding putting individual meters in at Rushview Mobile Home Park. This was discussed at the August meeting but tabled. Les said that the Park owner would pay for the installation parts and City Utilities would pay for the meters. Les said that they would be installing ten at a time. He will contact the property manager to finalize the project.

Les asked the board if they have come to a decision on the 2021 wages for City Utilities employees. Phil King said that they have not. After a discussion, the Board committee and the Mayor will meet next Wednesday to discuss wages.

Butch Singleton brought up the situation with employees using City equipment for personal gain. Mayor Pavey said that he has been discussing the situation with the City officials and the City Attorneys. There will be stricter rules regarding this matter.

Mayor Pavey said that there have been Human Resource changes to make rules clear when an employee is on short term disability. He stated that the employee must have a doctor's statement for the employee to be off work and that when the employee returns to work, they will have a doctor's statement to release them. The employee will be returned to full capacity of his/her job duties or will be required to use FMLA.

Phil King motioned to adjourn. Butch Singleton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 5 p.m. at the City Center.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.